



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

STAFF REPORT

September 2, 2010

REQUEST: City Council Bill #10-0529/ City Property - Naming the Fire Station, Located at 5714 Eastern Avenue, the Konstantine Prevas Fire Station

For the purpose of naming the Fire Station, located at 5714 Eastern Avenue, the Konstantine Prevas Fire Station.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Melvin Hicks

PETITIONERS: The African American Fire Fighters Historical Society, on behalf of the Administration

OWNER: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: Located at 5714 Eastern Avenue, the Baltimore City Fire Department E-124 T-20 resides on an approximate 16,835 square foot lot in Southeast Baltimore. The underlying zoning for this site is B-3-2.

General Area: The Baltimore City Fire Department E-124 T-20 resides on the corner of Eastern and Anglesea Street. Johns Hopkins Bayview Campus borders the side to the North and West. The site is bordered by residential to the east and commercial uses to the south.

HISTORY

There are no previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

This action is consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, with respect to the enhancement of Baltimore's history and culture.

ANALYSIS

This bill would name the Baltimore City Fire Department station known as E-124 T-20, located at 5714 Eastern Avenue, to be the Konstantine Prevas Fire Station. Mr. Prevas served on Baltimore City's Board of Fire Commissioners and his deciding vote was instrumental in bringing down the barriers of discrimination within the Baltimore City Fire Department.

Mr. Konstantine Prevas is a World War II veteran, an immigration attorney, and a small businessman whose family's stall was a fixture in the Broadway Market in Fells Point for many years. Mr. Prevas is also an avid community leader in the Greek Community. Amongst his many accomplishments, Mr. Prevas is credited for his deciding vote to abolish discrimination within Baltimore City Fire Department. From the early 1950s until 1970, there was discrimination within the firehouses in Baltimore City. There was the black bed, the black table, the black plate, and in some stations you could see a single black toilet seat. Black fire fighters test were even manipulated and they received unequal disciplinary actions from the fire board. Reverend Marion Bascom (the first black Fire Board Commissioner) gives Mr. Prevas sole credit for his historic vote to eliminate discrimination within Baltimore City Fire Department firehouses. Mr. Prevas does not see his vote as something of significance but more of something that needed to be done.

Thus, The African American Fire Fighters Historical Society sees naming the firehouse, located at 5714 Eastern Avenue, the Konstantine Prevas Fire Station a fitting tribute to honor Mr. Prevas. His historical vote has promoted a healthier work environment for all fire fighters within Baltimore City. Planning staff is supportive of this recommendation and supports City Council Bill #10-0529.

Staff notified The Greater Greektown Neighborhood Alliance, Greektown Community Development Corporation - (GCDC), The African American Fire Fighters Historical Society, Marion Bascom, the Fire Department Officials, and City Council Representative of this action.

**Thomas J. Stosur,
Director**